IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of Confirmation No.: 7893

Kazunori TANIGUCHI et al. Date: February 2, 2009

Serial No.: 10/630,509 Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: July 30, 2003 Examiner: Tuan Van NGUYEN

For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

VIA EFS-WEB Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION AND FEE FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.17, 1.136(a) AND 35 USC 41(a)8

Sir:

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by one month(s). Credit card payment in the amount of \$130.00 is submitted via EFS-WEB for the petition fee in accordance with 37 CFR 1.17 computed as:

_ ∠ Response within first month	
not small entity (\$130)	small entity (\$65)

You are authorized to charge to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700 any additional amounts owing.

If this petition is inadequate to avoid abandonment, the Assistant Commissioner for Patents is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to extend the time by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. §1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON FEBRUARY 2, 2009

MM:GB:ns

Respectfully submitted,

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